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### EDITORIAL



I sat down to write the twelfth edition in June just after the World Cup but time got away from me and it is now over a year since an edition of this newsletter has appeared.

One reason for the lack of press coverage is that there is a proliferation of newsletter by National, State, Regional and Park Associations all getting their respective messages to their target audience. In most case the same audience.

I simply did not want to repeat all the news that was already out in the market place and I'll try not to be too repetitive in this issue.

The World Cup had come and gone and Australia remains World Champions, with the next World Cup being held in South Africa early in 2007.

In other world news the South Pacific Island Nations created their own bi-annual Islands Championships that will be played in Samoa in 2005. This year's event was hosted by Fiji and proved to be a successful tournament with Fiji winning Gold Medals in both divisions (Mens and Women). PNG finished second with Samoa third

The Australian senior teams selected at next March's NTL will tour South Africa and England before flying to the Island of Jersey for the Fifth European Championships.

Our Youth teams tour New Zealand in January and play tests against their hosts at the conclusion of the tour. All Touchies wish them well as they are the future of the game here in Australia.

2004 will be a busy years for the ATA selectors. I have already mentioned the Euros but more importantly our Youth teams will contest the Second Youth World Cup on Queensland sunshine Coast in early 2005.

Squads will be progressively selected and culled throughout next year and Cathy Gray and her volunteers have a big task ahead of them.



(Cathy Gray – ATA Director Selectors)

Enough of my talking, I hope you enjoy this issue and I wish you and your families and friend a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

### GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

1992 saw the appointment of the first female ED of the ATA when Leanne Evans replaced Ken Wells at the helm in the ATA Office. She bought “innovative” ideas to the organisation and with them, left her mark before her departure to greener pastures.

The National Championships returned to Hobart, Tasmania having been conducted there back in 1983. These were the 11<sup>th</sup> ATA Titles.

No ATA national event “is worth its salt” unless there is some sort of controversy. Tassie had its share. First were the NSW players claiming exemptions from wearing the then sponsors shoes Asics Tiger.

Medical Certificates were handed into the judicial enquiry investigating the matter and yours truly was Chair.

Doctor Arthur Bosenquet actually phoned each doctor who wrote out a certificate for a player and asked if there was any medical reason they could not wear the prescribed shoe. Each doctor replied NO – so case dismissed.

The Council then put restriction on the type of cleats or sole that shoes needed to be so as to play on their Bowling Green fields. We got over that hurdle.

Then Bill Ker and Graham Murphy, who were running the event, left the microphone on and over the loud speaker.



## Great Moments In Touch (Cont)

They could be heard talking about our “friend of friends” – the referees, referring to them by their much loved terminology.

Then the presentation where no one could hear what was being said up on stage and the seating arrangements were changes several times before people arrived.

Then Queensland protesting that because the points for the overall championships were tied they should be crowned National Champions as they beat NSW in the March Past. Ahh the joys of the National, the NTL is just not the same.

1991 was also the year NSW Touch moved out of its offices at the Valerie and took up residency on the corner of King Georges and Stoney Creek Roads, Beverley Hills.

Of course it is history that they now have moved back to Tempe but the foresight of Ken Crawford in those days was to be applauded as Touch was flourishing, staff were on the increase and the affiliates was rolling in. It was in this building that the State of Origin concept, initiated by Ken, came to fruition.

With Leanne Evans at the head of the ATA Office and Paul Jonson in his second term as President the ATA staff were moved into their now current premises in Deakin ACT. The official opening of "Mungga-Iri House" was not until the following year when staff had ironed all the bugs out.

Glenys Woolcock was inducted into the ATA Touch Hall of Fame during the presentation ceremony at the conclusion of the Nationals. After beating NSW 3-1 in the Womens 27's division final, she was overheard saying that “nothing could top off this victory”. Several hours later she relegated that victory to second place.

## ELEVENTH NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS



Queensland won three divisions and NSW won three divisions, with both

finishing on a total of 75 points. So who were the National Champions? It was decided that as NSW had not lost the title they in fact retained it, much to the displeasure of the Qld touring party.

Queensland's tour manager Gwynne Ker protested to the ATA Tournament Director, her husband, Bill Ker. Not a pretty sight but in the end the decision remained in NSW's favour.

In the Mens division extra time was needed to decide the winner. At one stage it appeared Sam Ayoub had scored the winner in the corner of the field but the pass was ruled forward. “No way” screamed the NSW fans.

Seconds later a pass from Paddy Grehan that appeared to go to ground was pounced upon by Scott Notley and the touchdown awarded in the opposite corner at the opposite end of the field, giving Queensland the title. “No way” screamed the NSW fans again. Ahh the controversy of the Nationals – I miss it – or have I already said that. The ACT finished third with the ADF fourth.

With NSW stealing Queensland's crown in 1991 they were more determined to retain it this year, going through undefeated and beating Qld in a very close 2-1 final. Northern territory came third with South Australia Fourth.

Lack of teams saw the Mixed division not being catered for at the 1992 Titles and the last year a Womens 27's division would compete. Since the inception of a Senior Womens division NSW had won twice and Queensland once. After the final the wins were even with Qld's 3-1 victory over NSW.

Tasmania came third with the Northern Territory coming fourth. NSW showed their dominance in the Mens 30's having lost only one title in the past six years. In a closely fought final they sneaked home against Queensland 1-0. The ADF came third with the Northern Territory again coming fourth.

With NSW having won 7 out of the 10 previous over 35's titles they were very sure of another win. However Qld had other ideas and after defeating them 1-0 in the preliminary rounds they gave them a lesson in the final winning 3-1.

In the mens 40's NSW had not lost a title since the division was available at the Nationals. That record look in danger

after Queensland beat the 2-1 in the first of the round games. A 2-0 victory to NSW in their second encounter set up a Grand Final that could have gone either way. NSW however produced the goods and won 3-0.

## LETTERS

*Referees are being taught in Victoria that a player in possession when dumping the ball can split either way by simply swinging the foot over the ball and not actually stepping over the ball and putting your foot on the ground. Is this the correct method of the Rollball.*

No the foot must go over the ball and be placed on the ground. The method you describe is a problem at the International level and I'm surprised it is surfacing at park level. If the referees are being taught that then they are being taught wrongly and I have referred the matter to the ATA Referee's Director to look at

*Is there likihood of any Rule changes in the near future ?*

The International Body has for several years put suggestions to its Members but only the United States has taken any changes on board. At the upcoming European Championships there are a few rules that are different.

Players will not have to perform a Rollball parallel to the sideline, and in general play there will be no six again. If a defender causes the ball to go to ground it will count as a touch (unless of course it is the sixth touch). If the ball is touched in flight by a defender then there is no six again, it is just play on if the attacking teams retains possession.

Whether the ATA adopts any changes is up to them.

## FAMOUS INTERVIEWS



A former C.E.O. of the Qld Touch Ass., Bill Ker is amply qualified to interview our next Legend of Touch. He is none other than the first male to have been inducted into the ATA Hall of Fame, Mr. Terry Jack. Bill asked Terry the following questions.

***When did you first become involved in touch and why?***

My first involvement with serious competitive touch was back in 1976 with a club called Dairy Cows. They were a side made up of people from where I worked. Cows were one of the original clubs in the Brisbane Metropolitan Touch Association competition and Leigh Barker was the headman there and was a guiding force for me in my formative years in touch.

I was playing first grade Rugby Union for Brothers at the time so I wasn't able to play every weekend. The more I played the game the clearer it was to me that it was becoming a real passion. Even as a kid my brothers and I would play for hours either in the back yard or organise a big game usually on a Sunday afternoon down at the local park where we would have up to twenty boys playing.

***To what do you attribute your longevity at the elite level of the sport?***

There were a few areas that contributed to this. Without doubt my attention to fitness was a major factor. I was always conscience to try to be at the highest level of fitness all of the time.

I was also lucky to always have the ability to recover from injuries quickly, and that was because of the emphasis I put my fitness and stretching programs.

But probably more than anything else, the one most important aspect was the great success and mateship and closeness we had developed at our club side Eagles during the 1980's. They were some of the fondness memories I have of playing Touch. It was a highlight of the week to go to training and play the games.

***What were some of your greatest challenges?***

Without doubt the constant changes and development of our game over the years had been a big challenge. Even after my retirement there has been numerous changes and no doubt there will be more in the future.

But personally, probably the toughest challenge was finally winning our first Men's Open Australian Title in 1985. The Queensland team that year was a very focused and committed group of men who were going to achieve, we had a desire to win for each other and for our

State. It was a big hurdle to cross for Queensland teams at that stage. It opened the door for future Queensland sides.

***Who were some of your most difficult opponents, and why?***

There were many players that come into this category. In the local Brisbane competition there were some great players. I know I will miss players here but to mention just a few. Peter Spargo, Paul Shipperley, Greg Young, Chris Massingham, Terry Hutchinson and Kev Hickey were some outstanding players.

Then there were the champion players from Ipswich like Scott Notley and Paddy Grehen and Gold Coast players Paul Wilson, Michael Bourke and Ashley Retallick. Queensland Country had some outstanding players like, Ron Milne, Wayne Brandon, Arthur Tsakissiris, Greg Duncan and Don Jago.

In the National Championships there were players like Tim O'Brien, Mark Boland, Gary Lawless, Ron Wall, Mick McCall, Mark Carter, the Reynold brothers and Mark Hornery.

When I look back now, it makes me feel privileged to say I competed with and against these guys.



***If you had to pick your greatest moment in your career, what would it be?***

To me representing your country is the greatest honour any sportsman or woman can achieve, so to be named Australian Captain in 1985 was the greatest sporting moment. The Australian team was selected straight after the Nationals that year and we played the very next day

against New Zealand in the Inaugural Test match at Albert Park Melbourne.

Leading the team onto the field was a very proud occasion. I had achieved the greatest honour in the game.

Another highlight was while on the New Zealand tour in 1986 when my wife Donna and I both captained our respective Australian teams against Auckland on the same day.

***Your favourite TV show - food - movie - actors - Music***

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Favourite TV show | STARGATE                  |
| Favourite Food    | Lamb roast and vegetables |
| Favourite Movie   | Raiders of the Lost Ark   |
| Favourite Actors  | Harrison Ford             |
| Favourite Music   | Neil Diamond              |

***Who are the stars of the sport now that you and others have recently retired?***

When I was just finishing my career Mark Boland, Scott Notley and Bobby Brindell were just starting to make their names. It was pretty easy to see that these guys were going to dominate for the next decade and beyond.

***Can you name some up and coming future champions?***

I recently had the chance to attend the Australian Schools championships in Canberra. There was some outstanding talent on show. Emily Hopkins from Queensland looks to have a big future in Touch. As has Ji Bonner who shone in Canberra, he is the son of Mark Bonner who was an outstanding player from the Gold Coast many years ago.

Other young talents are Peter Norman (son of Greg and Kerry Norman) and Ryan McGoldrick who played in the Under 12 Primary team in 2002. Also a player who I have coached over the past couple of years is Stuart Hayes. I don't like putting pressure on young players but he is an absolute standout talent and has a bright future in the game.

***Who has had the most influence on you in your career?***

There have been a few people over the years. In the beginning Leigh Barker was



a tremendous help, he more or less started me off in the game.

Des Noble coached me at our club Eagles for quite a few successful years and had a big influence on me as did Alan Satchell who was Queensland coach when we won our first Men's Open title.

But the man who was my mentor for many years was my father in law Don Baker. He followed Donna and I to all parts of Australia and to New Zealand to support and follow our careers. He was a great person and a great mentor. I miss him very much.

***If there were a rule to change to better the game – what would it be?***

There two areas I would like to put in the discussion pot.

Firstly I would like to see a new dimension added to the game. Without going into too much detail I would like to see some type of advantage play introduced.

Or example when the attacking team drops the ball and is picked up by the defensive team I would like to see a play-on rule.

And secondly some of the best touchdowns are “scored” off some beautiful half-volley pick-ups but are never awarded obviously. This is the other area that could be looked at.

***Why did you leave the sport at the height of your career?***

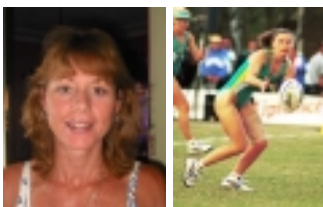
I had set my goals and achieved them. I had achieved everything that was achievable as a player so I knew it was time to move on.

As well, Donna and I had just started our family and it was the right time to retire. I knew I would be back one day. I have now moved into the area of junior coaching, which I enjoy a lot. All my children – Ryan, Rhys, Ryley and Michaela all play and are showing great promise. I get as much enjoyment watching them play then when I played the game myself.

***Any other questions / comments or statements you wish to make about touch***

Touch is a brilliant game to play and follow and caters for everyone. You can play it seriously or play it for fun. There are terrific opportunities for representative games and touring Australia and overseas.

### THE LEGENDS CLUB



Boland, Mark  
Brindell, Bobby  
Gregory, Stacey  
Toohey (nee Maher), Katrina  
Notley, Scott  
Shelley, Darren  
Smith, Karen  
Terry Jack

**Terry Jack - welcome to the Legends Club**

### ALLSTARS OF TOUCH 1992

One or two people generally dispute my articles regarding the All Stars. They can remember back that far and suggested that I should have include him or her (whoever they may be).

Last time (1991) was no exception and when two people say the same name then maybe I should at least acknowledge that player. There is only 14 players named each year and whilst someone has to miss out it is a shame that the captain of the Australian World Cup Mixed team was one of those people. To Mark Hearnden – you are an Allstar to a lot of “Touchies” – thanks for the memories.

The players in 1992 strutted their stuff at the Nationals in Hobart. Qld let the charge with eight players in the All Stars. Scott Notley, Patrick Grehan, Trevor McPhillips, Peter Buckland, Kerry Norman (for the sixth time), Renee Clark, and Alex Illin and Steve Hancock who both only ever represented Qld on the one occasion.

NSW had five players, Mark Boland, Joanne Wong, Debbie Biddolph, Kobie Jones, and Jamie Thomas with Michael McGovern from the ACT making up the 14 players.

Garry Giles from the Northern Territory was the All Star Coach, Ralph Powell from Qld the Manager and Graeme Murphy the DO for the ATA at the time was the Official. No doubt people will differ but that's the beauty of having an opinion.

### GREATEST TEAMS OF THE 20th CENTURY

Since the inception of the State of Origin Qld Mens teams have proved their superiority over their NSW counterparts. The series kicked off in Port Macquarie in 1995 with Qld winning both of the games held in that series.

In 1996 the series was contested over three games and again held in the town of Port Macquarie with Qld winning the series 3-0.

Brisbane was the next venue in 1998 and after losing the opening game, Qld went on to win the series. Their first series defeat was in the following year on the Gold Coast when after winning the opening match they lost the next two.



(You had to be there)

The retirement of legend players Scott Notley and Bobby Brindell left a hole in Qld's side and the 2001 series in Wollongong saw them lose the first two games and thus the series. Their rebuilding came to the fore in 2002 when in Brisbane they smashed NSW 3-0 in the most emphatic win in the history of the event.

Of the seventeen games between Qld and NSW in the S o O series, Qld have won 12 and lost five with an 81-62 for and against record.

### **WORLD CUP 2003 KUMAGAYA, JAPAN**



The SARS virus, the world social and economic environment, lack of time to obtain visas all contributed to only nine countries arriving in Japan for the Fifth World Cup. Despite this the event was a huge success and all teams are eagerly awaiting the 2007 championships in South Africa.

The defending World Champions were under enormous pressure throughout the rounds of the competition especially when they drew 3-3 with New Zealand in the mens, lost 5-6 to NZ and drew 4-4 with South Africa in the mens 30's then lost 6-7 and 3-5 to NZ in the mens 35's.

With the senior division finals being played first it appeared that they could be struggling after the first two finals if NZ won, especially as the next final was the Mixed where NZ were the defending champions.

As it turned out, Australia came out blazing in the mens 35 final and it was all over bar the shouting at half time. They went on to win the game 8-2 in a complete reversal of form. MVP was Stephen McIntyre.



The over 30's was different affair at full time when the scores were locked at 3-3. The drop off was as exciting any segment of play the tournament had experienced. With an ounce of skill and good luck the Aussie got the first touchdown in extra time and won 4-3. MVP was Robbie Brien.

With NZ defending the Mixed title and Australia defeating them in a hard contest during the rounds, this game was critical to any hope NZ had of winning the World Cup.

Any team with a legend of the caliber of Peter Walters was going to be difficult to defeat, but the Aussie did this against all the odds and with the final scoreline reading 6-5 they won the Mixed and the World Cup for Australia. Their score of 28-0 against Singapore was the highest score of the tournament. MVP was Benji Marshall who also won the Player of the Series Award

Australia's dominance in the womens division was stamped on the competition with an emphatic 9-2 win over New Zealand in their first encounter. This was followed up with a 5-3 win in the second round and a 4-2 win in the final. They remain undefeated in 45 World Cup appearances since 1988.

MVP was Bo de la Cruz who also won the Player of the Series Award.

Pride was on the line in the final match of the tournament. A drawn game in the rounds and again at full time saw Shane Frederiksen score in extra time to give Australia victory and a clean sweep of the five divisions. MVP was Shane Frederiksen.



### **INAUGURAL WORLD CLUB'S CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The World Club is open to any Club team affiliated with a Federation of International Touch Member and details can be found at

<http://www.internationaltouch.com.au/files/1037905.doc>

The entry form can be found at

<http://www.internationaltouch.com.au/files/1037904.doc>

### **EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Euros will be held in Jersey the weekend after the World Clubs. Rules and Regulations can be found on the web

<http://www.internationaltouch.com.au/files/1037886.DOC>

and the entry form can be found at <http://www.internationaltouch.com.au/files/1037894.DOC>

**Editorial: Cary Thompson**  
All articles for publication are to be submitted to [cary@austouch.com.au](mailto:cary@austouch.com.au) and may be edited to comply with ATA Standards

**Pleas e.mail this to all your "Touchie" friends**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2004

|                        |   |                  |                  |
|------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| 20/26th January        | Australian Youth (20's) Tour                  | South Island     | New Zealand      |
| 13/16th March          | ATA Nationals (Opens/20's)                    | Coffs Harbour    | Australia        |
| 18/21st March          | Australian Nationals (Seniors)                | Coffs Harbour    | Australia        |
| 3/4 <sup>th</sup> July | Asian Touch Championships                     | Singapore        | Singapore        |
| <b>2/4th July</b>      | <b>FIT Inaugural World Club Championships</b> | <b>Singapore</b> | <b>Singapore</b> |
| <b>10/11th July</b>    | <b>FIT Fifth European C'ships</b>             | <b>Jersey</b>    | <b>Jersey</b>    |
| 22/25 September        | Australian Youth Championships                | Coffs Harbour    | Australia        |
| Sept/October           | Australian All Schools (15's)                 | TBA              | Australia        |
| 28/30th October        | Australia Cup                                 | TBA              | Australia        |

### 2005

|                      |   |                              |                  |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>19/23 January</b> | <b>FIT Second Youth World Cup</b>             | <b>Quad Park Kawana, Qld</b> | <b>Australia</b> |
| 19/22nd March        | Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)             | TBA                          | Australia        |
| 24/26th March        | Australian Nationals (Seniors)                | TBA                          | Australia        |
| June                 | Asian Touch Championships                     |                              | Singapore        |
| <b>July</b>          | <b>FIT Second South Pacific Championships</b> | <b>Apia</b>                  | <b>Samoa</b>     |
| 21/24 September      | Australian Youth Championships                | Coffs Harbour                | Australia        |
| Sept/October         | Australian All Schools (15's)                 | TBA                          | Australia        |
| <b>October</b>       | <b>FIT Third World Schools Championships</b>  | <b>TBA</b>                   | <b>TBA</b>       |
| 27/29th October      | Australia Cup                                 | TBA                          | Australia        |
| 11/13 November       | Trans Tasman Test Series                      | South Island                 | New Zealand      |

## 2006

|                    |                                   |               |            |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 18/21st March      | Australian Nationals (Opens/20's) | TBA           | Australia  |
| 23/25th March      | Australian Nationals (Seniors)    | TBA           | Australia  |
| June               | Asian Touch Championships         |               | Singapore  |
| <b>June / July</b> | <b>FIT Sixth European C'ships</b> | <b>TBA</b>    | <b>TBA</b> |
| 20/23 September    | Australian Youth Championships    | Coffs Harbour | Australia  |
| Sept/October       | Australian All Schools (15's)     | TBA           | Australia  |
| <b>Sept/Oct</b>    | <b>FIT Second World Clubs</b>     | <b>TBA</b>    | <b>TBA</b> |
| 26/28th October    | Australia Cup                     | TBA           | Australia  |

## 2007

|                 |   |                     |                     |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Jan/Feb</b>  | <b>FIT Master World Cup</b>                   | <b>Stellenbosch</b> | <b>South Africa</b> |
| <b>Jan/Feb</b>  | <b>FIT Opens World</b>                        | <b>Stellenbosch</b> | <b>South Africa</b> |
| 17/20th March   | Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)             | TBA                 | Australia           |
| 22/24th March   | Australian Nationals (Seniors)                | TBA                 | Australia           |
| <b>June</b>     | <b>FIT Third South Pacific Championships</b>  | <b>Apia</b>         | <b>Samoa</b>        |
| 19/22 September | Australian Youth Championships                | Coffs Harbour       | Australia           |
| Sept/October    | Australian All Schools (15's)                 | TBA                 | Australia           |
| <b>October</b>  | <b>FIT Fourth World Schools Championships</b> | <b>TBA</b>          | <b>TBA</b>          |
| 1/3 November    | Australia Cup                                 | TBA                 | Australia           |

**If you wish to have any Touch event listed here then please provide details and it will be published in the following issues.**

# Touch Web Sites

Federation International Touch  
[www.internationaltouch.com.au](http://www.internationaltouch.com.au)

Australia Touch Association  
[www.austouch.com.au](http://www.austouch.com.au)

Chile – Santiago Touch Rugby Club  
[www.atamericas.com/touch](http://www.atamericas.com/touch)

Richmond Touch Rugby (England)  
[www.touchrugby.com](http://www.touchrugby.com)

Dallas Touch Association  
[www.dallastouch.com](http://www.dallastouch.com)

St. Helens Touch - England  
[www.st-helens-touch-rugby.co.uk](http://www.st-helens-touch-rugby.co.uk)

England  
[www.touchrugby.com](http://www.touchrugby.com)

France  
[www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr](http://www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr)

Fiji Touch  
[www.teivovo.com](http://www.teivovo.com)

New Zealand Touch  
[www.touchnz.co.nz](http://www.touchnz.co.nz)

Canterbury NZ  
[www.touchcanterbury.co.nz](http://www.touchcanterbury.co.nz)

Japan Touch  
[www.jp-touch.com](http://www.jp-touch.com)

Paradise Touch (USA)  
[www.makatwork.com/paradisetouch/aboutus.htm](http://www.makatwork.com/paradisetouch/aboutus.htm)

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby  
[www.bdj3.pt](http://www.bdj3.pt)

Rhondda Cynon Taff Touch  
[www.rcttouch.co.uk](http://www.rcttouch.co.uk)

San Diego  
[www.sandiegotouch.com](http://www.sandiegotouch.com)

Scottish Touch  
[www.scottishtouch.co.uk](http://www.scottishtouch.co.uk)

Touch Singapore  
[www.touchsingapore.org](http://www.touchsingapore.org)

**South Africa**  
[www.touchrugby.co.za](http://www.touchrugby.co.za)

Welsh Touch (see below also)  
[www.walestouch.org.uk](http://www.walestouch.org.uk)

USA Touch  
[www.usfit.com](http://www.usfit.com)

ACT Touch  
[www.acttouch.com.au](http://www.acttouch.com.au)

NSW Touch  
[www.nswtouch.com.au](http://www.nswtouch.com.au)

Queensland touch  
[www.qldtouch.com.au](http://www.qldtouch.com.au)

Touch SA  
[www.touch-sa.asn.au](http://www.touch-sa.asn.au)

Victoria Touch  
[www.victouch.com.au](http://www.victouch.com.au)

Western Australia Touch  
[www.watouch.com.au](http://www.watouch.com.au)



I wish to thank [Michael Braodbent's Photo Gallery](#) for allowing FIT to use his pic in this newsletter - [www.sportingimages.com.au](http://www.sportingimages.com.au)